

Join Us

If you would like to be involved in the world of theatre, why not join us as a Member.

Club Membership – Benefits

- ✓ The right to participate in club activities, including putting on shows
- ✓ A say in the running of the club through voting rights at the AGM and in electing the Board of Trustees
- ✓ Access to our members' website and receive a regular club newsletter by email
- ✓ Full credit to your account for booked tickets to Questors productions if you let us know that you can't make the show
- ✓ Priority booking for courses or special events
- ✓ Meet new people and learn fresh skills as part of the Questors team
- ✓ Feel great about being a member of one of Europe's largest community theatres with over 90 years of contribution to the arts

Note that this new, lower-priced membership does not include ticket discounts.

We have a wide range of opportunities for you to become actively involved throughout the theatre. Volunteer help is always needed for selling programmes, stewarding or serving behind the bar, and training is provided if you'd like to work in Box Office with our computerised system. Backstage staff including stage managers, prop makers, set builders, sound and lighting designers and operators, painters, wardrobe and costume and set designers are always welcomed, whatever your skills. We also have courses for those wishing to direct. The Questors has a high standard of acting and, to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – call the Theatre Office for details of forthcoming auditions.

Season Pass – Benefits

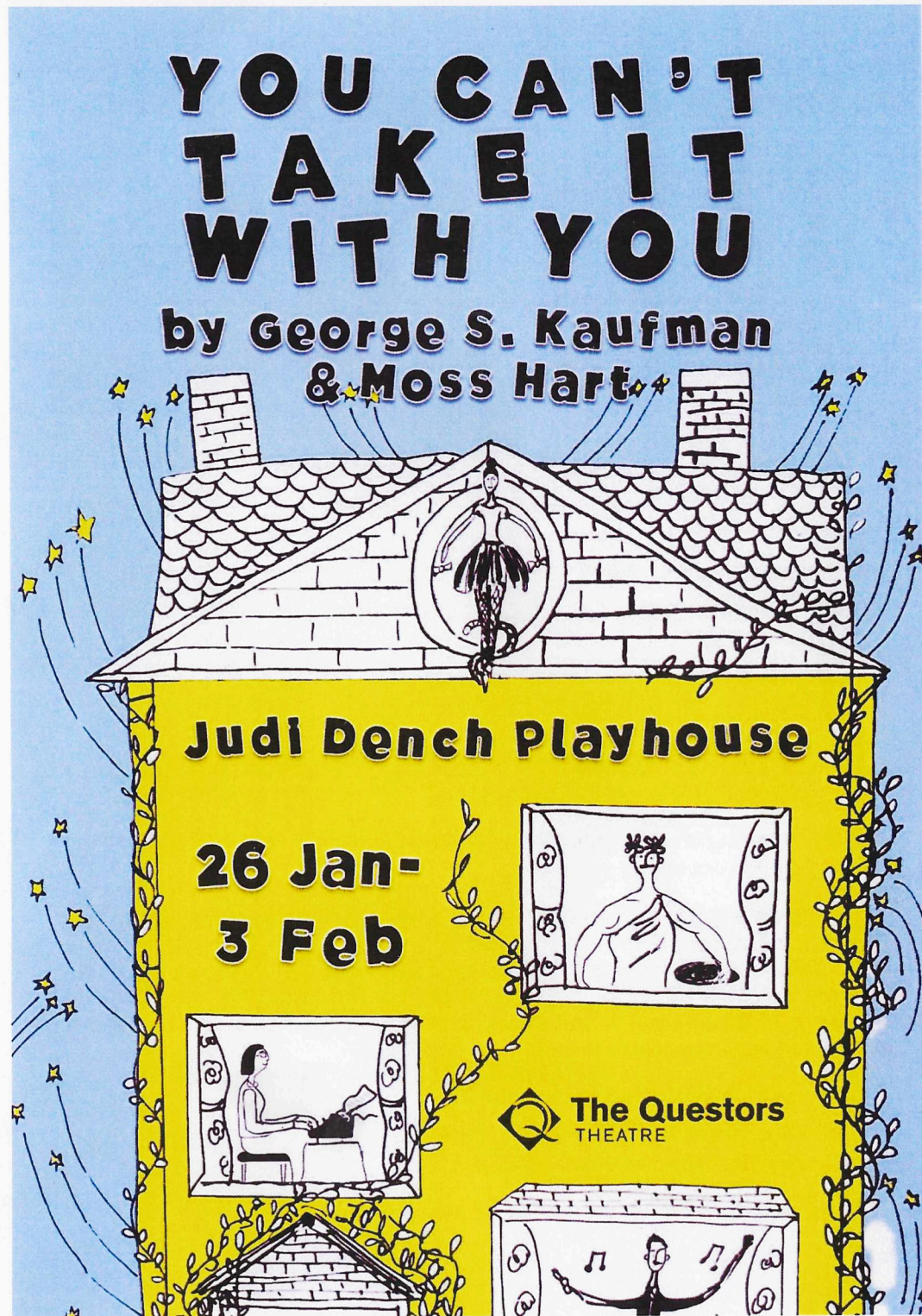
A Season Pass is also available to both members (the combined cost is equivalent to that of the old-style membership) and non-members, which gives the following benefits:

- ✓ Ticket discounts for every Questors production (except the pantomime):
an adult ticket at a 50% discount for the Season Pass holder
£2 off ANY number of additional adult or concession tickets
up to FOUR child tickets at 50% discount
- ✓ Will receive other *audience loyalty* special offers from The Questors or other organisations performing at The Questors
- ✓ Available to all – you do not need to be a club member

Further details and pricing of Club Membership (and enhanced Supporter Memberships), the Season Pass and Questors Youth Theatre can be found on the Questors website: questors.org.uk.

The Questors Theatre
12 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BQ
Registered Charity No. 207516

Programme: Nigel Bamford
Theatre Office: 020 8567 0011
Box Office: 020 8567 5184
Email: enquiries@questors.org.uk



Fields at The Questors

Fields at The Questors serves Italian coffee, fine teas, snacks and handmade cakes, and is the perfect spot for a pre-theatre café stop or interval ice-cream.



Place your interval order before the show to beat the crowds.

Open Monday to Saturday (9:30 – 6:00), and before and during the interval of all Judi Dench Playhouse evening and matinee performances.

Find **Fields** on **Facebook**.

The Grapevine Bar

The Grapevine is our friendly club bar open to Members of The Questors Theatre and their guests, as well as audience members on show nights.

The club is open six nights a week and Sunday lunchtimes, and is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers.

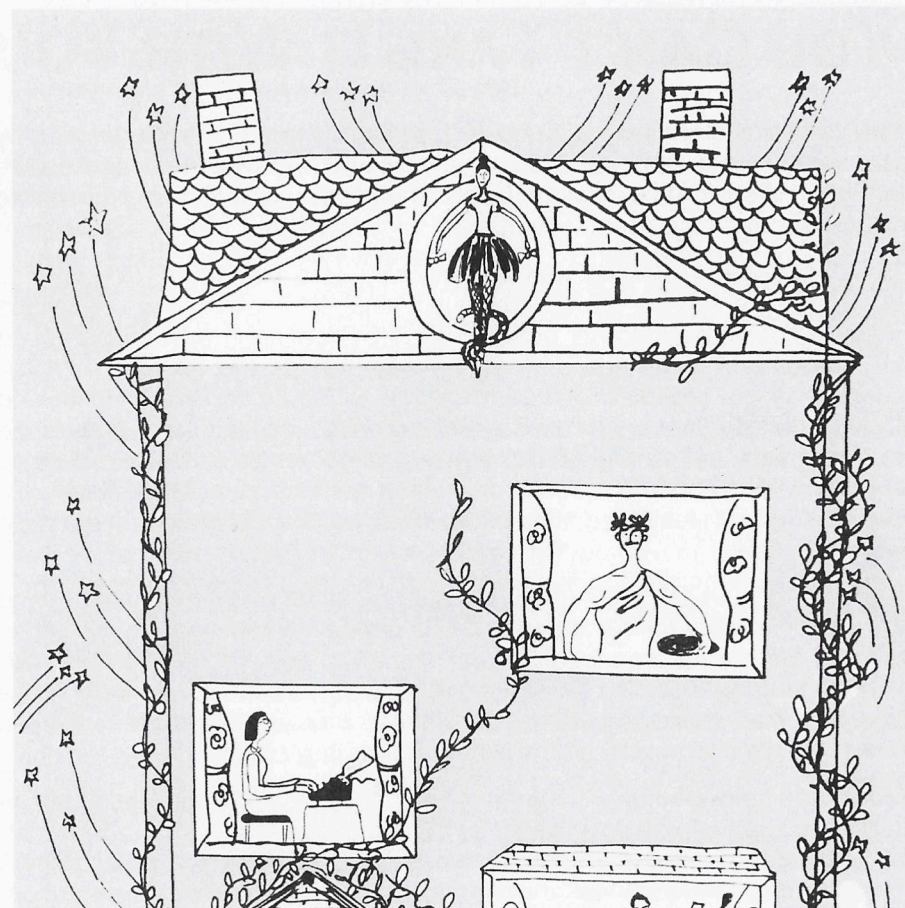
We are the proud holders of a Cask Marque award for the quality of our real ales, we appear in the 2024 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are **CAMRA West Middlesex Club of the Year**. A choice of at least three real ales is usually available, including Fuller's London Pride. We also provide a range of draught lagers and ciders, as well as wines, spirits and soft drinks – all at very reasonable prices.

Opening Hours (subject to change):

Monday – Saturday: 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Sunday lunchtime: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details.



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

The Judi Dench Playhouse

26 January – 3 February 2024

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Welcome to the enchanting world of *You Can't Take It With You*, written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, where the whimsical and heart-warming tale of the Sycamore family unfolds amidst the backdrop of the 1930s.

Moss Hart (1904 – 1961) was a highly regarded playwright, director and author known for his many contributions to American theatre, directing many successful Broadway productions. He grew up in poverty but found his passion for the stage at a young age. His career took off with the success of his collaborations with George S. Kaufman, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter to name a few. Hart's ability to collaborate with a diverse range of composers and writers showcased his versatility as a director. Besides plays, he also penned memoirs, including *Act One* detailing his early life and rise in the theatre world. He had a talent for both comedic and dramatic works.

George S. Kaufman (1889 – 1961) was a prominent playwright, director and humourist, known for his sharp wit and prolific contributions to American theatre. His career spanned several decades, and he collaborated with various writers, including Edna Ferber and Moss Hart. Kaufman's works often satirised society, politics and human behaviour, earning him acclaim for his comedic prowess and insightful commentary.

Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman met through a chance encounter in 1930. Hart, an aspiring playwright at the time, was introduced to Kaufman by a mutual friend, playwright Laurence Stallings, during a poker game. This meeting marked the beginning of their influential creative collaboration. Kaufman, already an established and successful playwright, took an interest in Hart's work, and their shared passion for theatre led to a fruitful partnership in the world of Broadway.

Both Hart and Kaufman were key figures in the Golden Age of Broadway, leaving a significant impact on American theatre. Despite their different backgrounds, their partnership produced memorable plays that continue to be performed and admired in the world of theatre. Their collaborative works, including *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Once in a Lifetime*, showcased their ability to blend humour, wit and social commentary, resonating with audiences and critics alike. Their plays often tackled societal norms, family dynamics and the human condition, reflecting the zeitgeist of their era. Together, they crafted *You Can't Take It With You*,

which premiered in 1936 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1937. It was made into a movie in 1938 and won two Academy Awards – Best Picture and Best Director for Frank Capra.

By highlighting the transient nature of material possessions compared to the lasting impact of joyful experiences and genuine relationships, *You Can't Take It With You* prompts reflection on what truly brings fulfilment and happiness in life; the themes of individuality, pursuing passions and the value of relationships over material wealth. Its relevance today lies in its reminder to prioritise experiences, relationships and personal fulfilment over the pursuit of wealth or material possessions, especially in a world often focused on consumerism and material success. It encourages living a fulfilling life rather than solely chasing monetary gains.

Within this captivating play, audiences will immerse themselves in the extraordinary life of the Sycamores, a family that defies convention and revels in individuality. At the helm of this delightful household stands the spirited patriarch, Grandpa Vanderhof, leading his kin through a joyous existence that bucks societal norms. Prepare to step into their unconventional abode, where a vibrant tapestry of characters awaits, each painted with their own distinctive quirks, passions and endearing idiosyncrasies.

The story takes an intriguing turn when Alice, the most conventional member of the Sycamore clan, extends an invitation to her affluent, conservative boyfriend and his parents for a dinner gathering. This collision of two starkly contrasting worlds sets the stage for uproarious laughter, delightful chaos and unforeseen connections.

You Can't Take It With You is more than a mere theatrical presentation; it's an open invitation to escape into a realm where laughter reigns supreme and the celebration of love and individuality knows no bounds. As you settle in for this unforgettable journey, embrace the boundless joy that permeates every scene, reminding us all of the enduring power of laughter and the beauty found in embracing life's eccentricities.

Join us on this extraordinary exploration of the human spirit, where the essence of love, the beauty of individuality, and the ever-resonating echoes of laughter unite to create an experience that will linger in your heart long after the curtain falls.

Thank you for being part of this quirky adventure with us. Your presence completes the canvas of this extraordinary tale, painting it with shared moments of joy, laughter and profound connections.

Pam Redrup, Director

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

First performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 26 January 2024

CAST

in order of appearance

Penelope Sycamore	Anne Marie Ryan
Essie Carmichael	Alexandra Upton
Rheba	Felicia Massiah
Paul Sycamore	Jacob Dalton
Mr De Pinna	Michael Smith
Ed Carmichael	Pascal Orzabal
Martin Vanderhof	Mark Redrup
Alice Sycamore	Amber Pursey
Mr Henderson	Stephen Campbell
Tony Kirby	Alexsei Toshev
Boris Kolenkhov	Omar Aga
Gay Wellington	Victoria Smith
Mr Kirby	Anthony Foran
Mrs Kirby	Mari Anton
G-Men	Christopher Benson, Joe Booth, Stephen Campbell
Grand Duchess Olga	Victoria Smith

The play lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes
including two 15-minute intervals

Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices. The use of cameras, video cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.
Thank you.

PRODUCTION

Director	Pam Redrup
Set Designer	Bron Blake
Costume Designers	Jenny Richardson, Nichola Thomas
Lighting Designer	Martin Walton
Sound Designer	Martin Choules
Stage Manager	Joanna Mludzinska
Deputy Stage Manager	Christopher Benson
Stage Management Support	Jennifer Kerr
Properties	Peter Salvietto, Michelle Weaver
Paper Properties	Geoff Moore
Portrait Painter	Vicky Saumarez
Prompters	Tina Harris, Anne Sawbridge
Voice and Movement	Lucy Aley-Parker
Fight Advisor	John Fryer
Singing Coach	Susan Powrie
Costume Maker	Karen Latimer
Hair and Make-Up	Megan Hunter-Powell
Lighting / Sound Operators	Sue Lowndes, Janina Corbet
Set Realisation	Roger Brace (lead), James Burgess, Sue Collins, Doug King, Andy Kotowicz, Simon Rudkin, Derek Stoddart, Ian Black
Get-In Assistance	Bernie Brady, Ignatius Crean, Tina Harris, Stephen Souchon, Doug Willis
Photographer	Evelina Plonyté

Thanks to: **James Connor, Ben Hart, Harriet Parsonage,
Laurence Reid, Sarah Stoddart, Nigel Worsley,
Kall Kwik (Chiswick)**

Biographies

Omar Aga – Boris Kolenkhov

Omar is appearing in his fourth Questors show in two years, having appeared previously in *Haunting Julia* and *Little Dorrit* last season and *Dragon's Teeth* earlier this season. *You Can't Take It With You* is his first comedy at The Questors, and Boris is his first Russian.

Mari Anton – Mrs Kirby

Originally from Slovakia, Mari's theatre debut was in *Dear Octopus* in Bromley Little Theatre in 2004. She pursued her passion for acting with various workshops and a Diploma in Acting from City Lit, also appearing in some short and independent feature films, commercials and theatre productions. This is her first production with The Questors.

Christopher Benson – G-Man

Chris has previously appeared in *A Doll's House*. He has also been SM on *Dragon's Teeth* and DSM on *The Herd*, *On the Razzle*, *The Contingency Plan*, *GOOD TIMES TOGETHER with the Everly Brothers*, *A Doll's House*, *The Remarkable Adventures of Peregrine Proteus* and *Apologia*.

Joe Booth – G-Man

Joe has been a member of The Questors for nearly 13 years. He has been involved with a fair few plays, both backstage and onstage. He is delighted to be in this very enjoyable play but is remembering to be utterly serious throughout this play. Utterly...

Stephen Campbell – Mr Henderson / G-Man

Stephen has lived in London for over 20 years, currently in Hanwell with his wife and two children. His interest in acting started in February 2023, when an author thought Stephen would make a good detective in his upcoming short film. This is Stephen's first venture into theatre acting and hopefully not his last.

Jacob Dalton – Paul Sycamore

With a background in writing and directing, and two award-winning short films to his name, Jacob is currently in his first year of the Questors acting course and is very excited to be given this opportunity to take part in his first play here.

Anthony Foran – Mr Kirby

Ant graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and recently returned to acting after 20 years away. For City Lit he appeared in *Animal Farm* (Old Major), *Macbeth* (Banquo) and *Earthquakes in London* (Colin), and at the Tabard in Tony Traxler's *Ashley* (Sam/Hank). This is his first production with The Questors.

Felicia Massiah – Rheba

Felicia joined The Questors as part of Student Group 49. Her most recent appearance here was as a maid in *A Little Hotel on the Side* in 2001, before leaving to be a mum. After a long absence, she's back playing ... a maid.

Pascal Orzabal – Ed Carmichael

This is Pascal's second play at The Questors after performing in *Dragon's Teeth* in October. He can't wait to perform in The Judi Dench Playhouse for the first time and hopes for a great run and to be involved in many more productions in the future.

Amber Pursey – Alice Sycamore

Amber is thrilled to be performing her first show with The Questors. She has been involved with the theatre world her whole life, from performing in the West End to working backstage. The Questors has reignited the love and passion she has for theatre, and she can't wait to perform.

Mark Redrup – Martin Vanderhof

Mark has been acting for The Questors since 1990, appearing in around seventy shows, recently seen as King Arthur in *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight* and Canon Pennefather in *Murder on the Nile*.

Anne Marie Ryan – Penelope Sycamore

Originally from Massachusetts, Anne Marie joined The Questors in 2017. Her most recent roles include Emma in *Contractions*, Cleaner 2 in *Two Cleaners* and Mae in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Anne Marie works in publishing and writes children's books and novels (but, unlike her character, no plays!).

Michael Smith – Mr De Pinna

Michael trained with Student Group 50, followed by appearances and crewing in numerous shows. He performed in Schiller's *Mary Stuart* in 2013, then had a decade-long break to get his breath back.

Victoria Smith – Gay Wellington / Grand Duchess Olga

Victoria was in a production of this show 30 years ago as part of Student Group 46, and is delighted to be back. She is an improviser and acting member who you might have seen in *Little Dorrit*, *Whipping It Up* or as part of Questors comedy nights.

Alexsei Toshev – Tony Kirby

This is Aleksei's first production with The Questors and he hopes it to be the first of many. Previous stage credits include Andrew Fastow in *ENRON*, Colonel Brandon in *Sense and Sensibility*, Sasha in *Old Bridge*, Hec in *London Wall* and Ned Spigget in *Nell Gwynn*.

Alexandra Upton – Essie Carmichael

Alexandra is thrilled to be returning to The Questors, having recently appeared as Hortensia in *The Rehearsal*, Thomasina Coverly in *Arcadia* and Kay Mostyn in *Murder on the Nile*. Favourite previous credits include Pamela/Annabella in *The 39 Steps*, Julia in *1984*, and Helena and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Bron Blake – Set Designer

An active member since the early 1970s, Bron has been doing set design and scenic art since 2004. Recent productions include *The Village Bike*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, *Sweet Charity*, *Larkin with Women*, *Endgame*, *Di and Viv and Rose*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *God of Carnage*, *The Ghost Train*, *A Doll's House*, *Arcadia* and *The Rehearsal*.

Martin Choules – Sound Designer

Martin designed the sound for *On the Razzle*, *The Contingency Plan*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Haunting Julia*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Loveplay*, *Dear Brutus*, *Strange Orchestra*, *Fault Lines*, *Future Conditional*, *Absent Friends*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Animal Farm*, *Improbable Fiction*, *The Exonerated*, *Rhinoceros* and *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*.

Pam Redrup – Director

Pam joined The Questors in 2006, starting as DSM for *Lady in the Van*. She met her husband while they were both doing *Arsenic and Old Lace*. They took *A Servant to Two Masters* on tour to Venice. Pam directed *Present Laughter*, *Blue Remembered Hills*, *House & Garden*, *The Crucible*, *Pygmalion*, *Not About Heroes* and *Low Level Panic*, plus a few pantos.

Jenny Richardson – Costume Designer

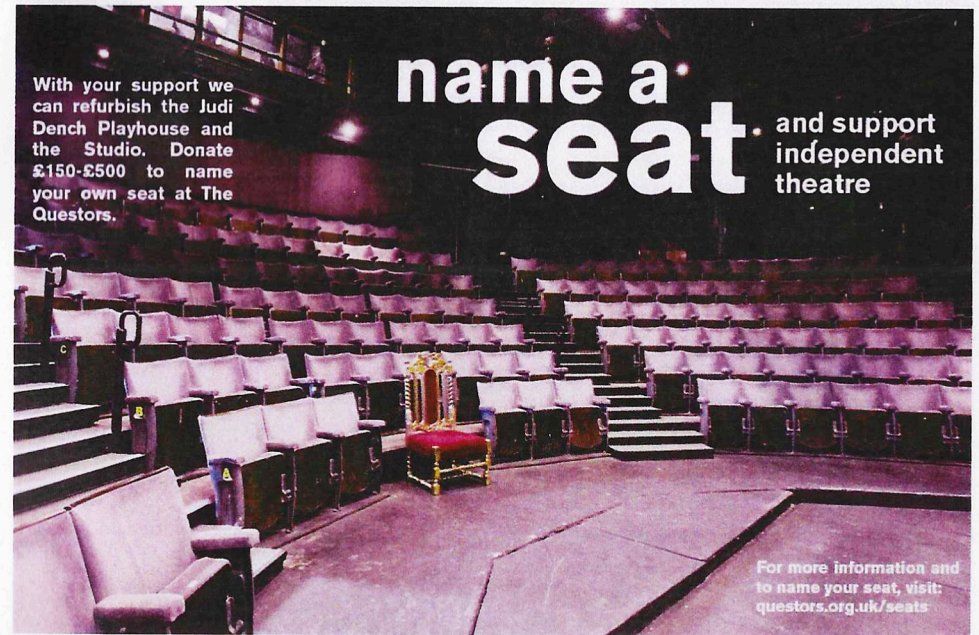
After many years working in stage management, props and set design, Jenny enjoyed a change of direction to costume design, recently for *The Herd*, *The Contingency Plan*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Little Dorrit*, *Peregrine Proteus* and *Hangmen*. Jenny is also frequently in demand as an upholsterer.

Nichola Thomas – Costume Designer

Nichola has been the costume designer on over 30 shows in the last 20 years, including *Shadowlands*, *The Last of the Haussmans*, *Endgame*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, *Present Laughter*, *Mrs Warren's Profession*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and most recently *The White Carnation*. She particularly enjoys designing shows set between the 1920s and 1950s.

Martin Walton – Lighting Designer

Martin has been lighting theatre productions for over 20 years. Recent credits include *Cats* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* for Centre Stage, *Little Shop of Horrors* for GEOIDS, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for SEDOS and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Albion* for The Questors. When not in a theatre, he works as an electronics engineer.



Next at The Questors

SARAH SAMPSON

by **Gotthold Lessing**
translated by **David Emmet**
16 – 24 February 2024

The Studio

A man with a dubious past has eloped with a younger woman promising to marry her – but will he? And what will happen when her father arrives, followed by a ruthless ex-lover? Moral ambiguity abounds and tragedy awaits in this almost forgotten classic. Originally written by the German writer, Gotthold Lessing (perhaps best known for his play *Nathan the Wise*), join us for the world première of this new translation by David Emmet.

WHISPERS IN THE WINGS

by **Rory Hobson** and
James Rushbrooke
27 February – 2 March 2024

The Judi Dench Playhouse

To celebrate 70 years of the Questors Youth Theatre, we have commissioned a brand new play from Rory Hobson and James Rushbrooke, the writer of *Treasure Island* and *King Arthur and the Twelfth Knight*.

On opening night in 1954, disaster strikes moments before curtain up. With the star indisposed, will the show go on? And will they work out whodunit?